

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 FRB-03 STR-04 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

/140 W

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R 171740Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1884

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2499

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

REYJKAVIK 747

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 09144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, PLOS, EFIS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 7343, (B) ECA-364, (C) STATE 217321

(ALL NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION HAS DECIDED TO APPROACH SIMULTANEOUSLY EXTENSION OF EC FISHING ZONES TO 200 MILES, BASIS FOR INTERNAL EC FISHING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN NEWLY CREATED EC FISHING WATERS AND EC NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. WHILE OCTOBER 1 TARGET FOR THE ADOPTION OF GUIDELINES ONLY FOR EXTENDING 200 MILE
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FISHING ZONE WILL NOT BE MET, SOME COMMISSION OFFICIALS

HOPEFUL EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL APPROVE GLOBAL COMMISSION FISHERIES PROPOSALS AT OCTOBER 18-19 COUNCIL MEETING, THOUGH OTHERS FEAR IT MAY SLIP TO NOVEMBER. UK PERM DEL STRESSED NEED FOR EC TO TAKE EARLY ACTION ON 200 MILE FISHING ZONE EXTENSIONS AND TO PROVIDE SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO UK UNDER NEW FISHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR EC MEMBER COUNTRIES REQUIRED BY EXISTENCE OF ENLARGED FISHERIES ZONES. END SUMMARY.

2. EAMON GALLAGHER, CHIEF ADVISOR TO DG I EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INFORMED MISSION OFFICER THE COMMISSION HAS DECIDED TO TAKE "A GLOBAL APPROACH" TO FISHERIES PROBLEMS RATHER THAN CONCENTRATING SOLELY ON THE QUESTION OF HOW TO ADOPT THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE (REF A). THE SAID THAT THREE MAIN ISSUES WHICH ARE CLOSELY INTERRELATED AND WILL BE TAKEN UP SIMULTANEOUSLY ARE: (A) IMPLEMENTATION OF EXTENSION BY MEMBER STATES OF FISHING ZONES TO 200 MILES; (B) DETERMINATION OF PRINCIPLES OF FISHING ARRANGMENTS FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES WITHIN THESE EXTENDED ZONES, AND (C) ESTABLISHMENT OF MANDATES FOR EC COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE FISHERIES AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES.

3. AMONG REASONS FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS APPROACH, GALLAGHER NOTED, IS THE RELUCTANCE OF SOME MEMBER STATES TO PROCEED WITH EXTENSION OF FISHERY ZONES WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT FUTURE ARRANGMENTS FOR FISHING WITHIN EC WATERS WILL BE. GALLAGHER SAYS HE HAS ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO PUT TOGETHER A PACKAGE OF COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MEMBER STATES WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING APPROVAL BY THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THEIR OCTOBER 18-19 COUNCIL MEETING. HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE SINCE HIS AIM IS TO FRAME COMMISSION PROPOSALS ALONG THE LINES OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNITY WATERS AND FOR NEGOTIATING MANDATES WITH THIRD COUNTRIES, LEAVING NUMBERS, DESIGNATION OF ZONES AND OTHER DETAILS TO FUTURE INTER-EC NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS.

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4. GALLAGHER SAID THAT ASSUMING EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL APPROVES NEGOTIATING MANDATE WITH US ON FISHERIES IN MID-OCTOBER, HE IS HOPEFUL NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEIN AROUND OCTOBER 25 FOLLOWING US-EC SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH HE WILL ATTEND (REF C).

5. OTHER OFFICIALS ARE MORE CAUTIOUS IN EXPRESSING OPTIMISM ABOUT ABILITY OF COUNCIL TO ACT IN OCTOBER,

AT LEAST ON ALL ELEMENTS OF THE PACKAGE. WHILE DEFINITION OF A NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR US AND CANADA WILL BE RELATIVELY UNCOMPLICATED AND MAY BE ADOPTED IN OCTOBER, REST OF PACKAGES MAY HAVE TO SLIP TO NOVEMBER. HOWEVER, THESE OFFICIALS ALSO STRESS THAT, AS A MINIMUM, NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE UNDERWAY WITH ICELAND BEFORE THE INTERIM BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UK EXPIRES NOVEMBER 30.

6. IN SEPARATE MEETING, UK PERMANENT LEGAL ADVISOR STRESSED IMPORTANCE TO UK OF EARLY ACTION TO ESTABLISH EC 200 MILE FISHING ZONES IF THESE AREAS ARE NOT TO BE INVADDED BY FISHING FLEETS FROM NON-EC COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE SOVIETS AND EASTERN EUROPEANS, FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 200 MILE ZONES BY NORWAY, ICELAND, CANADA AND THE US. CONTRARY TO GALLAGHER'S APPROACH, HE SAW NO PARTICULAR REASON NOT TO PROCEED AT ONCE WITH EXTENSION OF THE 200 MILE ZONE, LEAVING INTERNAL EC ARRANGEMENTS AND NEGOTIATION MANDATES WITH THIRD COUNTRIES TO NEXT STAGE. HE NOTED THAT UK WILL PROBABLY LOSE MORE THAN ANY OTHER EC COUNTRY FROM ESTABLISHMENT BY OTHERS OF 200 MILE FISHING ZONES AND, AT SAME TIME, BECAUSE OF GEOGRAPHY WILL CONTRIBUTE LARGEST AND RICHEST FISHING AREAS TO 200 MILE EC ZONE. THE EC MUST THEREFORE BE PREPARED TO REPLACE OR AMEND ITS COMMON FISHERY POLICY (WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN ADOPTED IN "INDECENT HASTE" JUST BEFORE BRITAIN'S ACCESSION) IN ORDER TO GIVE UK SPECIAL FISHING RIGHTS IN ITS NEW EXTENDED FISHING ZONE. HINTON

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